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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/565,497	09/12/2006	Naoyuki Yamamoto	04703/0203784-US0	7321
7278 7590 04/06/2009 DARBY & DARBY P.C. P.O. BOX 770 Church Street Station New York, NY 10008-0770				
EXAMINER KOSAR, AARON J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1651				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/565,497

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

AARON J. KOSAR

Art Unit

1651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/20/06: 8/30/07

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in the reply filed on December 19, 2008 is acknowledged. Claims 1-14 are pending of which claims 5-13 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Claims 1-4 and 14 are pending *and* have been examined to the extent of the elected invention.

Election was made **with** traverse. Because Applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election/restriction is still deemed proper and therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are indefinite, because the phrase "to have an average chain length of not longer than 2.1 in terms of the number of amino acid residues" in claim 1 is unclear, because it is unclear which unit of measure the "2.1" refers or how the number is "in terms of" an amino acid residue, which renders the claims indefinite.

For the sake of compact prosecution, the claims have been examined to the extent of *a casein hydrolysate obtained by hydrolyzing animal milk casein, the hydrolysate comprising free*

amino acids and peptides, wherein the average amino acid chain length of said free amino acids and peptides in said hydrolysate is not longer than 2.1 amino acid residues. Please note, however this does not absolve Applicant of the requirement to appropriately amend the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by BYUN (U:PTO-892, of record).

BYUN anticipates the claims, including a casein hydrolysate having an average of less than or equal to 2.1 amino acid residues, by teaching a casein hydrolysate which is 68.5% hydrolyzed (68.5% hydrolysis corresponds to an average chain length of 1.46 amino acids ($100/68.5=1.46$). The composition is treated enzymatically including with X-prolyl dipeptidyl aminopeptidase (X-PDAP) from *A. oryzae* which hydrolyzes all non-“X-Pro” bonds (e.g. methods, pages 2061-2; table 2, page 2062; Abstract).

In regards to claims 2 and 4 to the extent BYUN may be silent with respect to reciting a particular characterization of the composition or an intended use thereof, the cited reference discloses a composition comprising a casein hydrolysate which appears to be identical to the presently claimed composition since it was isolated from a casein composition treated with an enzyme which produces a casein hydrolysate having and average amino acid chain length of 1.46

amino acids (68.5% hydrolysis). Consequently, the claimed composition appears to be anticipated by the reference.

In regards to claim 14, in the absence of evidence to the contrary the disclosed prior art casein hydrolysate composition would inherently contain ACE inhibitory or hypotensive activity.

Since the Office does not have the facilities for examining and comparing Applicants' composition with the composition of the prior art, the burden is on applicant to show (if rejected under 35 USC § 102 or § 103) a novel or (if rejected under 35 USC § 103) unobvious difference between the claimed product and the product of the prior art. See *In re Best*, 562 F.2d 1252, 195 USPQ 430 (CCPA 1977) and *In re Fitzgerald*, 619 F.2d 67, 205 USPQ 594 (CCPA 1980).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AARON J. KOSAR whose telephone number is (571)270-3054. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30AM-5:00PM, ALT. Friday,EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Wityshyn can be reached on (571) 272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sandra Saucier/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1651

/Aaron J Kosar/
Examiner, Art Unit 1651